



**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
February 7, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

**Present:** Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Deirdre Kvale, Mike Feldmann, Jahn Dyvik, and Gina Joyce

**Staff Present:** City Administrator: Scott Weske

**Absent:** None

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.*

**OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Review of Council Meeting Presentation Regarding Long Lake's Response to Orono's Offer for Transition of the Long Lake Fire Department**

Council member Dyvik shared a proposed presentation outlining the City's counteroffer to Orono responding to their buyout offer for the Long Lake Fire Department. He gave a brief history of the discussions and negotiations that were stopped by Orono in September of 2022, at which time they offered a buyout. He commented that he believes it is Long Lake's primary goal to pursue a partnership and that Long Lake would like Orono to consider resuming those discussions. He reviewed the offer Orono submitted on September 27, 2022 and details from the City's counteroffer letter issued on January 27, 2023. He overviewed the points of the counteroffer that he felt would be beneficial to both Long Lake and Orono, the firefighters, and the community.

Council member Kvale inquired about the effect of any counteroffer acceptance on the existing fire service contracts with other cities (i.e. Medina and Minnetonka Beach).

Council member Feldmann noted that there are a few details like the point raised by Council member Kvale that would need to be clarified and laid out clearly in any contract.

Council member Dyvik mentioned that because there are so many details that need to be covered, he wondered if it may make sense for City Attorney Thames to work with Chris Yetka of Larkin Hoffman to ensure that all items are addressed.

The Council discussed details of the counteroffer and what they think the response may be from the perspective of the public, firefighters, and Orono residents. They pondered whether there needed to be an official vote or response from the Council on the letter that was already sent to Orono.

Council member Joyce suggested that the Council make an official statement that because many of the discussions and meetings leading up to the letter that was sent to Orono took place in closed session. She explained that she thought it would be a good idea if the Council formally stated the direction that was given during the closed meetings for the record.

Council member Dyvik wondered if perhaps there should be a motion to support the final version of the letter that was sent to Orono. He noted that he was unsure if that would be a unanimous vote, but he believes it would be supported by the majority of the Council.

City Administrator Weske stated that he did not believe an actual motion would be necessary, but added that the Council members could choose to go on the record and share their opinions.

### **Update and Discussion Regarding Fire Chief Position**

Mayor Miner reported that there are three candidates under consideration for the Fire Chief position and reviewed highlights of the candidates' background and experience.

Weske provided more information on the recent application review and interview process. Following the initial review of applications, the first round interview committee selected seven candidates for in-person interviews, and has narrowed the field down to three qualified candidates. He expressed concern about continuing to move forward with the hiring process without knowing what may happen regarding the City's counteroffer proposal to Orono.

Council member Dyvik agreed that it may make sense to wait a bit and see what happens with the counteroffer letter.

Weske reviewed the expected process to be followed for interviews of the three finalists, but noted that he would wait to set up interviews until the City has a sense of the response to the letter that was sent to Orono.

### **OTHER BUSINESS/WORK SESSION COUNCIL REPORTS**

No other business was discussed.

### **ADJOURN**

*Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:22 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske  
City Administrator